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has seldom received from English writers. Mr. Addison, it is true, has to some extent availed himself of the assistance which the continental jurists afford in the consideration of topics, most of which are emphatically *juris gentium*; but he has not always done so with perfect accuracy. At the very outset, for instance, he makes the common blunder of confounding the doctrines of the Roman and of the common law with respect to *nuda pacta*, and of supposing that the *causa*, which the one, and the "consideration," which the other, makes essential to a contract, are convertible terms. Nothing could be more erroneous. A *nude pact* in the Roman law was simply a promise or agreement, which, from the absence of established formalities which indicated deliberation, or from some artificial reasons, was not clothed with an action. The question of "consideration," as we understand the word, had little or nothing to do with it. On other points, also, we have noticed that Mr. Addison has drawn a little inadvertently from the wells of Roman jurisprudence, though perhaps not in matters of very grave importance.

But while thus indicating what we conceive to be a defect in the treatise before us, we have no desire to detract from the real and solid merits which it possesses, and which are now stamped with the seal of a fourth edition. Indeed, for the practical lawyer, its "very failings lean to virtue's side." What it wants in abstract completeness is more than compensated for by its copiousness of citation, its comprehensiveness of plan, and its general accuracy. Its value is much enhanced to the profession in the United States by the learned and careful notes of Mr. Ingersoll.

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AN ANALYTICAL DIGEST OF THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES, from the year 1789 to the year 1857, with marginal references, a digested syllabus of each title, foot notes to the judicial decisions, and a full and exhaustive index. By FREDERICK C. BRIGHTLY, Esq., author of "The Law of Costs," "Equity Jurisprudence," etc. ; editor of "Purdon's Digest of the Laws of Pennsylvania," etc. Philadelphia : Kay & Brother, 1857. One vol. imperial octavo.

By the courtesy of Messrs. Kay & Brother, we have been shown some specimen pages of this work of general interest, and we think the profession will be glad to be informed that such a book is now in the hands of the printer, and will be presented to the public during the ensuing sum-

mer. The important, and by far most interesting feature of the editor's labors, consists in the foot notes. Every source of authority has been explored. The decisions of the Supreme Court, the Circuit and District Courts, the Court of Claims, the decisions of the State Courts, the opinions of the Attorneys General and heads of departments have been collected, and the references, arranged under the respective sections of which they are the interpretation. The editor, Mr. Brightly, is well known at this bar, and throughout Pennsylvania, as the careful and diligent editor of Purdon's Digest in its latest and most useful editions. The plan attempted with the federal laws seems to be much of the same character. The sheets we have seen are most fully and thoroughly annotated, and leave little to be desired. Should the entire work be completed with the same thoroughness, and in a manner equally elaborate, it will certainly supply a want in our libraries which as yet remains unfilled.

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REPORTS OF CASES ARGUED AND DETERMINED IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK; with notes, references, and an index. By E. DELAFIELD SMITH, Counsellor at Law. Volume II. New York: Lewis & Blood, law booksellers and publishers, No. 84 Nassau street. 1856. pp. 864.

This volume is quite equal to its predecessor. It contains judgments upon points of much practical importance in a large and enterprising commercial community. The amounts involved frequently appear trifling when compared with the intrinsic difficulty of the questions themselves. The Court of Common Pleas in New York is by no means a modern tribunal; until recently its jurisdiction was limited. By the Judiciary Act of 1847, the Code of 1848, and its amendments of 1849, 1851, and 1852, and the statute of 1854—the Common Pleas exercises in that city co-ordinate jurisdiction with the Supreme Court. But in addition to this general jurisdiction, it is invested with a peculiar and exclusive jurisdiction, which gives some special interest to these reports. It is the Court of Appeals for the Marine Court and the District (*Justices'*) Courts; and, as to all suits commenced in those courts, it is the court of final resort. Its reports, therefore, contain the most complete and authoritative information concerning the practice and powers of those courts, and by analogy, of the Courts of Justices of the Peace and County Courts throughout the